

CLAIMS

The claims are amended as follows:

1-178. (Cancelled)

179. (Currently Amended) An editor for a document assembly system, the editor including at least one user interface component for associating~~configured to associate~~ document assembly instructions with selected locations within at least one initial XML source document,

the document assembly instructions being instructions for use in determining content at corresponding locations of ~~an~~at least one instance document to be generated from said at least one initial XML source document;

wherein:

(i) said at least one initial XML source document is valid with respect to a predetermined DTD or schema that does not include said document assembly instructions; and

(ii) the association of said document assembly instructions with said at least one initial XML document produces at least one XML source document that is valid with respect to the same predetermined DTD or schema as said at least one initial XML document.

180. (Previously Presented) The editor as claimed in claim 179, wherein at least one of said document assembly instructions includes one or more references to one or more other document assembly instructions.

181. (Previously Presented) The editor as claimed in claim 179, wherein said at least one XML source document includes one or more references to document assembly instructions external to said at least one XML source document.

182. (Previously Presented) The editor as claimed in claim 181, wherein at least one of said one or more references to document assembly instructions includes information that allows one or more of said document assembly instructions to be retrieved from a database.

183. (Previously Presented) The editor as claimed in claim 179, wherein said at least one XML source document includes said document assembly instructions.

184. (Currently Amended) The editor as claimed in claim 179, wherein said at least one XML source document includes XML Processing Instructions that include or reference said document assembly instructions.

185. (Currently Amended) The editor as claimed in claim 179, wherein one or more of said document assembly instructions determine one or more queries, conditions, and/or reusable content for use in determining said content of said at least one instance document.

186. (Currently Amended) The editor as claimed in claim 179, wherein said at least one XML source document includes one or more references to one or more queries, conditions, and/or reusable content for use in determining said content of said at least one instance document.

187. (Currently Amended) The editor as claimed in claim ~~185~~186, wherein the one or more referenced entities are external to said at least one XML source document.

188. (Previously Presented) The editor as claimed in claim 186, wherein said at least one XML source document includes one or more references to one or more documents defining said one or more queries, conditions, and/or reusable content.

189. (Previously Presented) The editor as claimed in claim 188, wherein at least one of said one or more documents is stored in a database, and said one or more references include information that allows said at least one document to be retrieved from said database.

190. (Currently Amended) The editor as claimed in claim ~~187~~188, wherein said one or more references to said one or more documents are in the form of universal resource indicators.

191. (Currently Amended) The editor as claimed in claim ~~186~~188, wherein said one or more documents are XML documents.

192. (Currently Amended) The editor as claimed in claim ~~189~~191, wherein said XML documents are valid with respect to a ~~predetermined~~-DTD or schema.

193. (Currently Amended) The editor as claimed in claim ~~190~~192, wherein the editor is configured to edit said one or more XML documents defining said one or more queries, conditions, and/or reusable content whilst maintaining the validity of said XML documents with respect to said predetermined-DTD or schema.

194. (Currently Amended) The editor as claimed in claim 179, wherein the associating of at least ~~some of said locations with corresponding ones~~one of said document assembly instructions ~~with one or more of said locations within said at least one initial XML document associates those~~said at least one document assembly ~~instructions~~instruction with one or more selected portions of said at least one XML source document.

195. (Currently Amended) The editor as claimed in claim ~~192~~194, wherein one or more of the document assembly instructions associated with selected portions of said at least one XML source document define one or more conditions that determine whether the one or more corresponding selected portions of said at least one XML source document will be included in said at least one instance document.

196–197. (Canceled)

198. (Currently Amended) The editor as claimed in claim ~~197~~292, wherein said party attributes include one or more of gender and number.

199. (Currently Amended) The editor as claimed in claim ~~197~~292, wherein said document assembly instructions include party mapping data mapping one or more parties defined in said document assembly instructions to respective parties of said at least one XML source document.

200. (Previously Presented) The editor as claimed in claim 199, wherein at least one of said document assembly instructions includes one or more references to one or more other document assembly instructions.

201. (Previously Presented) The editor as claimed in claim 199, wherein said at least one XML source document includes one or more references to document assembly instructions external to said at least one XML source document.

202. (Previously Presented) The editor as claimed in claim 199, wherein said at least one XML source document includes said document assembly instructions.

203. (Currently Amended) The editor as claimed in claim 199, wherein said at least one XML source document includes XML Processing Instructions that include or reference said document assembly instructions.

204. (Currently Amended) The editor as claimed in claim 199, wherein one or more of said document assembly instructions determine one or more queries, conditions, and/or reusable content for use in determining said content of said at least one instance document.

205. (Currently Amended) The editor as claimed in claim 199, wherein said at least one XML source document includes one or more references to one or more queries, conditions, and/or reusable content for use in determining said content of said at least one instance document.

206. (Previously Presented) The editor as claimed in claim 205, wherein the one or more referenced entities are external to said at least one XML source document.

207. (Currently Amended) A document assembly systemserver for use over a communications network, including:

a parser configured to parse at least one XML source document to determine document assembly instructions associated with selected corresponding locations within said at least one XML source document, ~~wherein said at least one XML source document is valid with respect to a predetermined DTD or schema that does not include said document assembly instructions~~; and

an assembly component configured to generate ~~an~~ at least one instance document from said at least one XML source document by processing said document assembly instructions to determine content at corresponding locations of said at least one instance document,

~~wherein said at least one XML source document is valid with respect to a predetermined DTD or schema that does not include said document assembly instructions.~~

208. (Currently Amended) The document assembly systemserver as claimed in claim 207, wherein said document assembly instructions include interview data defining one or more interview items that require resolution to determine corresponding content of said at least one instance document.

209. (Currently Amended) The document assembly systemserver as claimed in claim 208, wherein said assembly component resolves said one or more interview items to determine corresponding content of said at least one instance document.

210. (Currently AmendedPreviously Presented) The document assembly systemserver as claimed in claim 209, wherein said assembly component is configured to resolve said one or more interview items by processing additional information obtained by one or more of:

- (i) displaying one or more questions to a user of the systemserver and receiving one or more responses to those questions;
- (ii) querying a database; and
- (iii) invoking a web service.

211. (Currently AmendedPreviously Presented) The document assembly systemserver as claimed in claim 209, wherein said assembly component is configured to resolve said one or more interview items by two or more of:

- (i) displaying one or more questions to a user of the systemserver and receiving one or more responses to those questions from the user;
- (ii) querying a database; and
- (iii) invoking a web service.

212. (Currently AmendedPreviously Presented) The document assembly systemserver as claimed in claim 209, wherein said assembly component is configured to resolve said one or more interview items by:

- (i) displaying one or more questions to a user of the systemserver and receiving one or more responses to those questions from the user;
- (ii) querying a database; and
- (iii) invoking a web service.

213. (Currently Amended Canceled) The document assembly system as claimed in claim 212208, wherein the one or more referenced entities are retrieved from a database.

214. (Currently Amended) The document assembly systemserver as claimed in claim 212208, wherein said at least one XML source document includes one or more references to one or more documents defining said one or more queries, conditions, and/or reusable content.

215. (Currently Amended Previously Presented) The document assembly systemserver as claimed in claim 214, wherein said one or more references to said one or more documents are in the form of universal resource indicators.

216. (Currently Amended) The document assembly systemserver as claimed in claim 212214, wherein said one or more documents are XML documents.

217. (Currently Amended) The document assembly systemserver as claimed in claim 215216, wherein said XML documents are valid with respect to a predetermined DTD or schema.

218. (Currently Amended) The document assembly systemserver as claimed in claim 216, wherein including the an editor is configured to edit said one or more XML documents defining said one or more queries, conditions, and/or reusable content whilst maintaining the validity of said XML documents with respect to said predetermined DTD or schema.

219. (Currently Amended Previously Presented) The document assembly systemserver as claimed in claim 207, wherein the associating of at least some of said locations with corresponding ones of said document assembly instructions is associates-associated those document assembly instructions with one or more selected corresponding portions of said at least one XML source document.

220. (Currently Amended) The document assembly systemserver as claimed in claim 219, wherein the at least one or more of the document assembly instructions associated with selected-

one or more corresponding portions of said at least one XML source document defines one or more conditions that determine whether the one or more corresponding selected portions of said at least one XML source document will be included in said at least one instance document.

221. (Currently Amended) The document assembly systemserver as claimed in claim 220, wherein at least one of said one or more portions of said at least one XML source document includes one or more XML nodes in said XML source document, and a corresponding condition determines whether said one or more XML nodes will be included in said at least one instance document.

222. (Currently AmendedPreviously Presented) The document assembly systemserver as claimed in claim 214, wherein said one or more queries, conditions, and/or reusable content include interview data defining one or more questions for a user, and constraining responses to said questions.

223. (Currently AmendedPreviously Presented) The document assembly systemserver as claimed in claim 207, wherein said document assembly instructions include application data that can be parsed as XML.

224. (Currently AmendedPreviously Presented) The document assembly systemserver as claimed in claim 207, wherein said document assembly instructions include party instructions referring to attributes of a party defined in one or more of said documents.

225. (Currently AmendedPreviously Presented) The document assembly systemserver as claimed in claim 224, wherein said party attributes include one or more of gender and number.

226. (Currently AmendedPreviously Presented) The document assembly systemserver as claimed in claim 224, wherein said document assembly instructions include party mapping data mapping one or more parties defined in said document assembly instructions to respective parties of said at least one XML source document.

227. (Currently Amended) The document assembly systemserver as claimed in claim 207, wherein said assembly component retrieves text from one or more documents referenced in said

at least one XML source file, and includes the retrieved text in said at least one instance document.

228. (Currently Amended) The document assembly systemserver as claimed in claim 207, wherein said assembly component receives response text from a user, and includes the received text in said at least one instance document.

229. (Currently Amended Previously Presented) The document assembly systemserver as claimed in claim 207, wherein said assembly component accesses one or more documents referenced in said at least one XML source file to retrieve one or more selected corresponding phrases to be used in relation to a party of said at least one XML source file, wherein the party has values for attributes such as gender or number that match the attributes specified for the corresponding selected one or more phrases.

230. (Currently Amended) The document assembly systemserver as claimed in claim 207, wherein said document assembly instructions includes one or more instructions to include an item one or more multiple times in said at least one instance document.

231. (Currently Amended) The document assembly systemserver as claimed in claim 226230, wherein said item hascan have a different value for each of said times.

232. (Currently Amended) The document assembly systemserver as claimed in claim 207, wherein said document assembly instructions include at least one instruction associating a variable with textual data, and said assembly component evaluates said variable and includes said textual data in said at least one instance document if said variable has a first value, and omits said textual data from said at least one instance document if said variable has a second value.

233. (Currently Amended) The document assembly systemserver as claimed in claim 228232, wherein said variable is a Boolean variable.

234. (Currently Amended) The document assembly systemserver as claimed in claim 207, wherein said document assembly instructions include at least one instruction to insertassociate a value of a variable atwith a corresponding location in said at least one instance document.

235. (Canceled)

236. (Currently Amended) The document assembly systemserver as claimed in claim 207, wherein said assembly component evaluates one or more variables of said document assembly instructions, and generates said at least one instance document on the basis of the resolved variables.

237. (Currently Amended) The document assembly systemserver as claimed in claim 207236, wherein said evaluating includes accessing a database.

238. (Currently Amended) The document assembly systemserver as claimed in claim 207236, wherein said evaluating includes performing one or more interviews with a user.

239. (Currently Amended) The document assembly systemserver as claimed in claim 207236, wherein said evaluating includes executing one or more functions associated with said one or more logic elements.

240. (Currently Amended) The document assembly systemserver as claimed in claim 207236, wherein said evaluating includes invoking a web service.

241. (Currently Amended Previously Presented) The document assembly systemserver as claimed in claim 207, wherein said assembly component maps one or more attributes of one or more parties used in one or more documents to respective attributes used in said at least one XML source document on the basis of mapping data of said at least one XML source document.

242. (Currently Amended) The document assembly systemserver as claimed in claim 207, including a rendering engine for generating from said at least one instance document anat least one output instance document in at least one output format.

243. (Currently Amended) A computer-readable storage medium having instructions stored thereon, which when executed cause a machine to perform a set of operations comprising:

~~generating an instance document from an parsing at least one XML source document for
at to determine document assembly system, instructions associated with corresponding selected
locations within said at least one XML source document being associated with; and~~

~~generating at least one instance document from said at least one XML source document
by processing said document assembly instructions to determine content at corresponding
locations of said at least one instance document; ;~~

wherein said at least one XML source document is valid with respect to a predetermined DTD or schema that does not include said document assembly instructions; and,

~~determining content at locations of the instance document based on corresponding
selected locations within said XML source document associated with said document assembly
instructions.~~

244. (Previously Presented) The computer-readable storage medium as claimed in claim 243, wherein at least one of said document assembly instructions includes one or more references to one or more other document assembly instructions.

245. (Previously Presented) The computer-readable storage medium as claimed in claim 243, wherein said at least one XML source document includes one or more references to document assembly instructions external to said at least one XML source document.

246. (Previously Presented) The computer-readable storage medium as claimed in claim 245, wherein at least one of said one or more references to document assembly instructions includes information that allows one or more of said document assembly instructions to be retrieved from a database.

247. (Previously Presented) The computer-readable storage medium as claimed in claim 243, wherein said at least one XML source document includes said document assembly instructions.

248. (Currently Amended) The computer-readable storage medium as claimed in claim 243, wherein said at least one XML source document includes XML Processing Instructions that include or reference said document assembly instructions.

249. (Currently Amended) The computer-readable storage medium as claimed in claim 243, wherein one or more of said document assembly instructions determine one or more queries, conditions, and/or reusable content for use in determining said content of said at least one instance document.

250. (Currently Amended) The computer-readable storage medium as claimed in claim 243, wherein said at least one XML source document includes one or more references to one or more queries, conditions, and/or reusable content for use in determining said content of said at least one instance document.

251. (Currently Amended) The computer-readable storage medium as claimed in claim ~~245~~²⁵⁰, wherein the referenced queries, conditions, and/or reusable content are external to said at least one XML source document.

252. (Previously Presented) The computer-readable storage medium as claimed in claim 251, wherein at least one of said queries, conditions, and/or reusable content is stored in a database, and at least one of said one or more references includes information that allows the at least one of said queries, conditions, and/or reusable content to be retrieved from a database.

253. (Previously Presented) The computer-readable storage medium as claimed in claim 251, wherein said at least one XML source document includes one or more references to one or more documents defining said one or more queries, conditions, and/or reusable content.

254. (Previously Presented) The computer-readable storage medium as claimed in claim 253, wherein said one or more references to said one or more documents are in the form of universal resource indicators.

255. (Previously Presented) The computer-readable storage medium as claimed in claim 253, wherein said one or more documents are XML documents.

256. (Currently Amended) The computer-readable storage medium as claimed in claim 255, wherein said one or more XML documents are valid with respect to a predetermined-DTD or schema.

257. (Currently Amended) The computer-readable storage medium as claimed in claim 256, wherein the set of operations comprises an editor is configured to editing said one or more XML documents defining said one or more queries, conditions, and/or reusable content whilst maintaining the validity of said XML documents with respect to said predetermined-DTD or schema.

258. (Currently Amended) The computer-readable storage medium as claimed in claim 243, wherein ~~the associating of at least some one of said locations with corresponding ones of said document assembly instructions is with locations within said at least one XML source document associates associated those document assembly instructions with one or more selected corresponding portions of said at least one XML source document.~~

259. (Currently Amended) The computer-readable storage medium as claimed in claim 258, wherein the at least one or more of the document assembly instructions associated with selected one or more corresponding portions of said at least one XML source document defines one or more conditions that determine whether the one or more corresponding selected portions of said at least one XML source document will be included in said at least one instance document.

260. (Currently Amended) The computer-readable storage medium as claimed in claim 259, wherein at least one of said one or more corresponding portions of said at least one XML source document includes one or more XML nodes in said XML source document, and a corresponding condition determines whether said one or more XML nodes will be included in said at least one instance document.

261. (Currently Amended Previously Presented) The computer-readable storage medium as claimed in claim 243249, wherein said one or more queries, conditions, and/or reusable content include interview data defining one or more questions for a user, and constraining responses to said questions.

262. (Previously Presented) The computer-readable storage medium as claimed in claim 243, wherein said document assembly instructions include application data that can be parsed as XML.

263. (Currently Amended) The computer-readable storage medium as claimed in claim 253243253, wherein said document assembly instructions include party instructions referring to attributes of a party defined in one or more of said documents.

264. (Previously Presented) The computer-readable storage medium as claimed in claim 263, wherein said party attributes include one or more of gender and number.

265. (Previously Presented) The computer-readable storage medium as claimed in claim 263, wherein said document assembly instructions include party mapping data mapping one or more parties defined in said document assembly instructions to respective parties of said at least one XML source document.

266. (Currently Amended) The computer-readable storage medium as claimed in claim 255265, wherein a reference to an XML document includes party mapping information for mapping a first party used in the referenced document to a second party used in the referring document.

267. (Previously Presented) The computer-readable storage medium as claimed in claim 249, wherein a condition depends upon one or more other conditions.

268. (Previously Presented) The computer-readable storage medium as claimed in claim 267, wherein said conditions are related by Boolean operators.

269. (Currently Amended) The computer-readable storage medium as claimed in claim 255, wherein said XML source document includes an assembly instruction for including in said at least one instance document text defined in a referenced XML document.

270. (Currently Amended) The computer-readable storage medium as claimed in claim 261, wherein said XML source document includes an assembly instruction for including in said at least one instance document response text provided by said user.

271. (Currently Amended) The computer-readable storage medium as claimed in claim 239243, wherein said XML source document includes an assembly instruction for including an element one or more-multiple times in said at least one instance document.

272. (Currently Amended Previously Presented) The computer-readable storage medium as claimed in claim 271, wherein content of said element is correspondingly modified for each of said times.

273-288. (Canceled).

289. (New) The editor as claimed in claim 195, wherein at least one of said one or more portions of said at least one XML source document includes one or more XML nodes in said XML source document, and a corresponding condition determines whether said one or more XML nodes will be included in said at least one instance document.

290. (New) The editor as claimed in claim 186, wherein said one or more queries, conditions, and/or reusable content include interview data defining one or more questions for a user, and constraining responses to said questions.

291. (New) The editor as claimed in claim 179, wherein said document assembly instructions include application data that can be parsed as XML.

292. (New) The editor as claimed in claim 179, wherein said document assembly instructions include party instructions referring to attributes of a party defined in one or more of said documents.

293. (New) The document assembly server as claimed in claim 207, wherein said at least one instance document is an XML document which is valid with respect to the same predetermined DTD or schema as said at least one XML source document.

294. (New) The document assembly server as claimed in claim 243, wherein said at least one instance document is an XML document which is valid with respect to the same predetermined DTD or schema as said at least one XML source document.

295. (New) The editor as claimed in claim 179, including a validation module configured to determine whether an XML document being edited by the editor is valid with respect to a corresponding DTD or schema.

296. (New) The editor as claimed in claim 179, wherein the editor is configured to insert at least one of:

- (i) one or more document assembly instructions, and
- (ii) one or more references to document assembly instructions

within said at least one initial XML document such that said at least one initial XML document remains valid with respect to said predetermined DTD or schema that does not include said one or more document assembly instructions.

297. (New) The editor as claimed in claim 296, wherein the editor maintains validity with respect to said predetermined DTD or schema by inserting said at least one of:

- (i) one or more document assembly instructions, and
- (ii) one or more references to document assembly instructions

within XML Processing Instructions in said at least one initial XML document.

298. (New) The document assembly server as claimed in claim 214, wherein the one or more referenced documents are retrieved from a database.